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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

I note that the IAC is reconsidering its policy regarding IAC approval of appendices to national intelligence estimates. I do not wish to intrude upon IAC discussion of this subject, but thought it might be helpful to advise you that IAC-approved supporting data of the sort which has been contained in the appendices to NIE's has been of considerable value to the NSC Planning Board.

As you know, the NSC Staff has frequently taken soundings to determine the most desirable length for the basic text of Council papers and supporting papers (including national intelligence estimates). We have found that Council members are most likely to read and profit from a basic paper of no more than 10-15 pages. This limitation in effect requires the consignment of lengthy supporting discussion and factual data to appendices. For members of the Planning Board, however, and even more for the men in the several Departments and Agencies who prepare preliminary drafts of Council papers, it is almost indispensable to have the summary intelligence estimates suitable for presentation to the Council, backed up by further discussion and factual data bearing the full authority of the IAC.

I appreciate, and I am sure the members of the Planning Board do also, the work involved in preparing and coordinating such supporting appendices. In Planning Board experience, however, intelligence judgments, especially those relating to Soviet capabilities, are likely to be challenged and debated unless supported by fully coordinated substantiating discussion and factual data. To the extent that the IAC is able to provide such substantiation for its generalized conclusions, it will forestall debate on intelligence estimates at the Planning Board level, enabling the Board to concentrate on the policy issues as it should.

The foregoing is an expression of my own views based on my NSC experience and recent Planning Board discussions. I have, however, discussed this memorandum with [] who concurs in the views expressed herein.

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Executive Secretary

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